

## Ganesh R. Soman Memorial Lecture, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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The Geological Society of India, Western Regional Centre, Pune organised the second Prof. G. R. Soman Memorial Lecture on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 4.00 pm at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. The memorial lecture is organised annually in the loving memory and honour of Prof. G. R. Soman who was one of the most fascinating teacher, well-versed in subjects like sedimentology, structural geology and stratigraphy. This year, Dr. Anand S. Kale, Consultant Geoscientist, Upstream (E & P) was invited to deliver the Memorial lecture on "Calcareous Nannofossils: Power and beauty in microns". The lecture was attended in person by research scholars, faculty members of Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences of the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Scientists from Agarkar Research Institute, and ACWADAM, Pune. Faculty members and students from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and K. J. Somaiya College, Mumbai participated through the online mode.

In this memorial lecture, Dr. Kale began his talk by defining nannofossils and their size. He subsequently delved on optical characteristics, mode of occurrence, formation of ooze on modern ocean floor and their occurrence in ancient sediments. He further elaborated on the range of the calcareous nannofossils, their life cycle

and present day conditions under which they occur in various ocean basins. His scheme on classification of calcareous nannofossils and the methodology to be adopted while studying them was interesting to students. Subsequently, he discussed at length the various facets of calcareous nannofossils and their use in hydrocarbon exploration, high resolution biostratigraphy, blending calcareous nannofossil data with sequence stratigraphy, etc. The lecture was followed by a session in which Dr. Anand Kale answered questions posed by the participants. During the session, Dr. Anand Kale also recalled memories of Prof. Soman style of teaching that included the importance of physically drawing diagrams on the blackboard to explain sedimentological and stratigraphic concepts. Prof. Soman was always keen on ensuring that all his students understood what he taught – a rarity in today's scheme of things!

Dr. P. Krishnamurthy, Council Member, Geological Society of India and Prof. Nitin R. Karmalkar, Ex Vice Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University congratulated Dr. Anand Kale for the lucid lecture which contained stunning visuals and SEM images. Dr. M. G. Kale thanked and felicitated Dr. Anand S. Kale for delivering the second Prof. G. R. Soman Memorial lecture. The Memorial lecture ended with a vote of thanks.